

SSLPR20 Sample Maker

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Leather Goods Manufacturing
Functional area	Product Design and Development
Job role	SSLPR20 Sample Maker
Job role description	Constructs prototype and pre-production samples of leather goods including bags, wallets, belts and accessories. Works collaboratively with designers and pattern makers to test design intent, construction methods and production feasibility prior to bulk manufacture.
Performance expectations	- Produce accurate and high-quality samples aligned to specifications - Interpret patterns and technical documentation correctly - Identify construction, cost and feasibility issues early - Meet product development and sampling timelines - Support smooth transition from sample to production - Maintain detailed feedback documentation for continuous improvement
Specialisation	- Luxury leather goods prototyping - Complex bag and accessory construction - Handcrafted detailing and finishing techniques - Small-batch and bespoke development projects
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	Transferable to sampling and prototype development roles in footwear, apparel, soft goods and related sewn product manufacturing sectors.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Interpret design sketches, patterns and specifications - Select and prepare appropriate leather and hardware materials - Construct prototype samples using industrial and hand techniques - Test assembly sequences and construction methods - Provide structured feedback to design and pattern teams - Revise samples following design review - Document sample modifications and technical changes
Critical work functions	- Accuracy in translating design into physical form - High level of craftsmanship and finish - Early identification of manufacturability risks - Material efficiency and cost awareness - Clear technical communication across teams - Support production readiness and quality outcomes

3. Technical skills

Leather construction techniques	Apply cutting, skiving, stitching, edge finishing and assembly processes accurately.
Industrial machinery operation	Operate leather sewing machines and specialised equipment.
Pattern interpretation	Read and apply pattern instructions and grading specifications.
Material preparation	Select and prepare leather, linings, reinforcements and hardware.
Prototype modification	Adjust construction methods to improve functionality and manufacturability.
Quality inspection	Assess workmanship, fit and structural integrity of samples.
Tool usage	Use hand tools and equipment safely and effectively.
Technical feedback documentation	Record construction adjustments and feasibility notes.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensure precision in measurements, stitching and finishing.
Problem solving	Identify and resolve construction and material challenges.
Communication	Provide constructive and clear feedback to design teams.
Time management	Meet sampling and development deadlines.
Collaboration	Work effectively with designers, pattern makers and production supervisors.
Adaptability	Respond positively to design changes and iterative revisions.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	• Integration with 3D digital prototyping systems • Advanced sampling machinery and automation • Sustainable material testing and evaluation • Digital documentation of sample revisions • Rapid prototyping methodologies
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6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST30519 Certificate III in Leather Production or equivalent.
Advanced development	MST40122 Certificate IV in Textile Design and Technology or equivalent.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Leather Goods Maker → Sample Maker → Pattern Maker → Technical Manager → Production Manager
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8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3-5 (enterprise dependent)
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 3

Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	Sample Maker - Manufacturing context
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